

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached are replacement sheets of drawing figures including Figs. 1-6 which should replace the six original drawing figures including Figs. 1-6. The replacement sheets of drawing figures include changes to Figs. 1, 2 and 4-6 involving addition of two-dimensional and three-dimensional vectors.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Submitted with this Amendment are replacement sheets of drawing figures that include changes to Figs. 1, 2 and 4-6. The changes involve providing two-dimensional and three-dimensional vectors consistent with the description in the application. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The specification and Claims 6 and 9 have been amended to adopt the helpful suggestions set forth by the Examiner on page three of the Official Action. Additional minor changes have also been incorporated into several of the other claims and the specification to correct typographical, grammatical and idiomatic errors. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to the specification and claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 has also been amended to clarify the claim wording and address the issue raised at the top of page four of the Official Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim rejection based on the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully requested.

The only other issue raised in the Official Action involves the rejection of Claims 1-10 based on the disclosure contained in Japanese Application Publication No. 2002-242508. This document is discussed in the background portion of the present application. The disclosed vehicle door operating apparatus includes a cable which transmits the operating force from the outside handle to the door lock apparatus. As discussed in the present application, the arrangement of this vehicle

door operating apparatus is such that the cable may flip-flop and generate noise due to interference between the cable and a portion of the door.

It is understood from the comments in the Official Action that the disclosure in the '508 Japanese Application Publication has been broadly interpreted as including all of the features recited in independent Claim 1. To better define differences between the vehicle door operating apparatus at issue here and the disclosure in the '508 Japanese document, Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the cable extends downward from both the opening operation member and the vehicle door lock apparatus. This arrangement, which is discussed on page nine of the application and illustrated in Figs 1 and 2, helps reduce difficulties such as those mentioned above. The '508 Japanese Application Publication does not include a cable arranged in the claimed manner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the anticipatory rejection of independent Claim 1 and the various dependent claims is respectfully requested.

The dependent claims are allowable at least because they depend from an allowable independent claim. These claims also define further distinguishing characteristics associated with the claimed vehicle door operating apparatus. For example, Claim 3 recites that the opening operation member includes an inner member fixed to the inner surface of the outer panel of the vehicle door and an outer member provided at the outer surface of the vehicle door outer panel and supported by the inner member. Claim 3 also recites the supporting member that supports the inner member in an engageable and disengageable manner. The Official Action observes that such features are disclosed in the '508 Japanese Application Publication. However, it is not seen that there is any disclosure in such document of

an inner member and an outer member forming an opening operation member, wherein the inner member and outer member are fixed in the claimed manner, and further including a supporting member that engageably and disengageably supports the inner member. The Official Action seems to imply that the wording in Claim 3 recites a capability of certain features. This comment is not entirely understood, but to the extent it is based on the inclusion of the term "for" near the end of Claim 3, such term has been deleted so that Claim 3 now recites that the supporting member supports the inner member engageably and disengageably.

Also, new dependent Claim 11 has been added which further distinguishes over the disclosure in the '508 Japanese Application Publication.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 27, 2005

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